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(54) Display system

(57) A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture comprises a plurality of bearer units 1 mounted for horizontal sliding movement between a retracted stored position in a housing 2 and an extended viewing position. Each unit 1 comprises a mount panel 1a and an end panel 1b extending to each side of the mount panel 1a to define respective recessed bays 1c for furniture displayed on opposed sides of the mount panel 1a. The units 1 are arranged side by side with the mount panels 1a in spaced apart parallel relationship and, in the retracted position, the end panels 1b are aligned and close the housing 2 to conceal the mount panels 1a within the housing 2. The bearing units may incorporate lighting units to illuminate the furniture displayed.

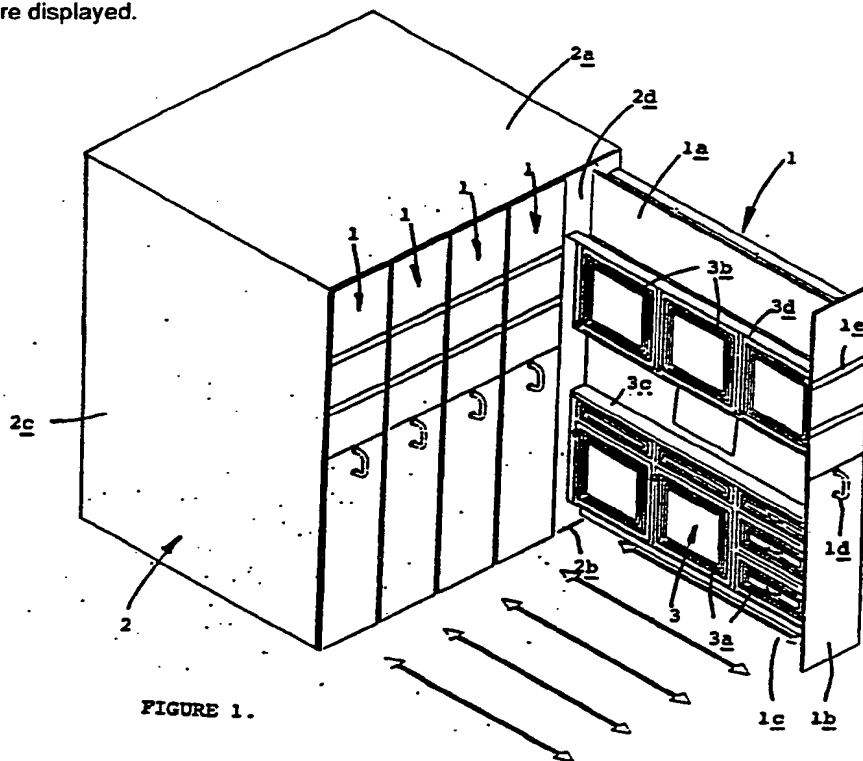


FIGURE 1.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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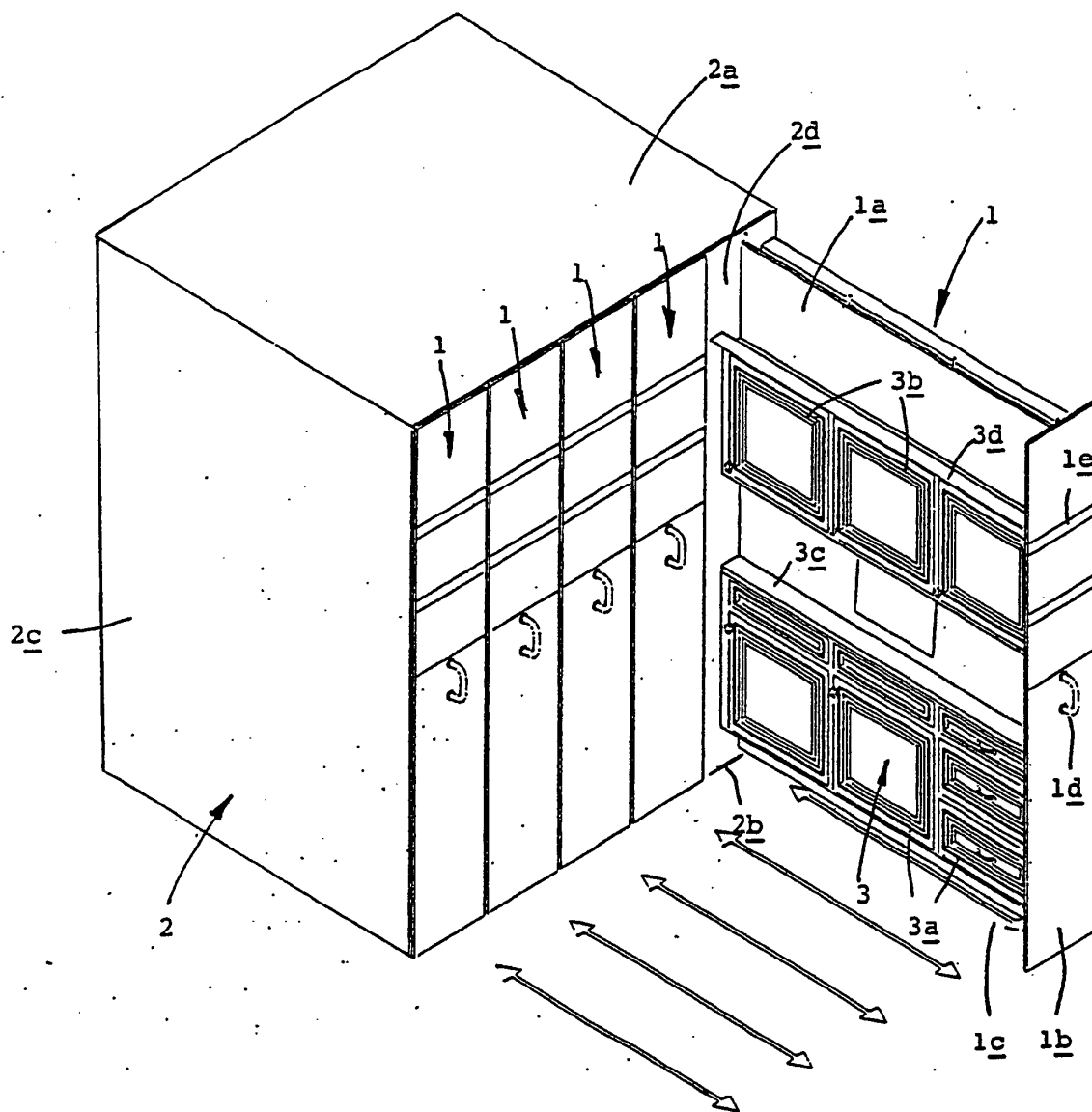


FIGURE 1.

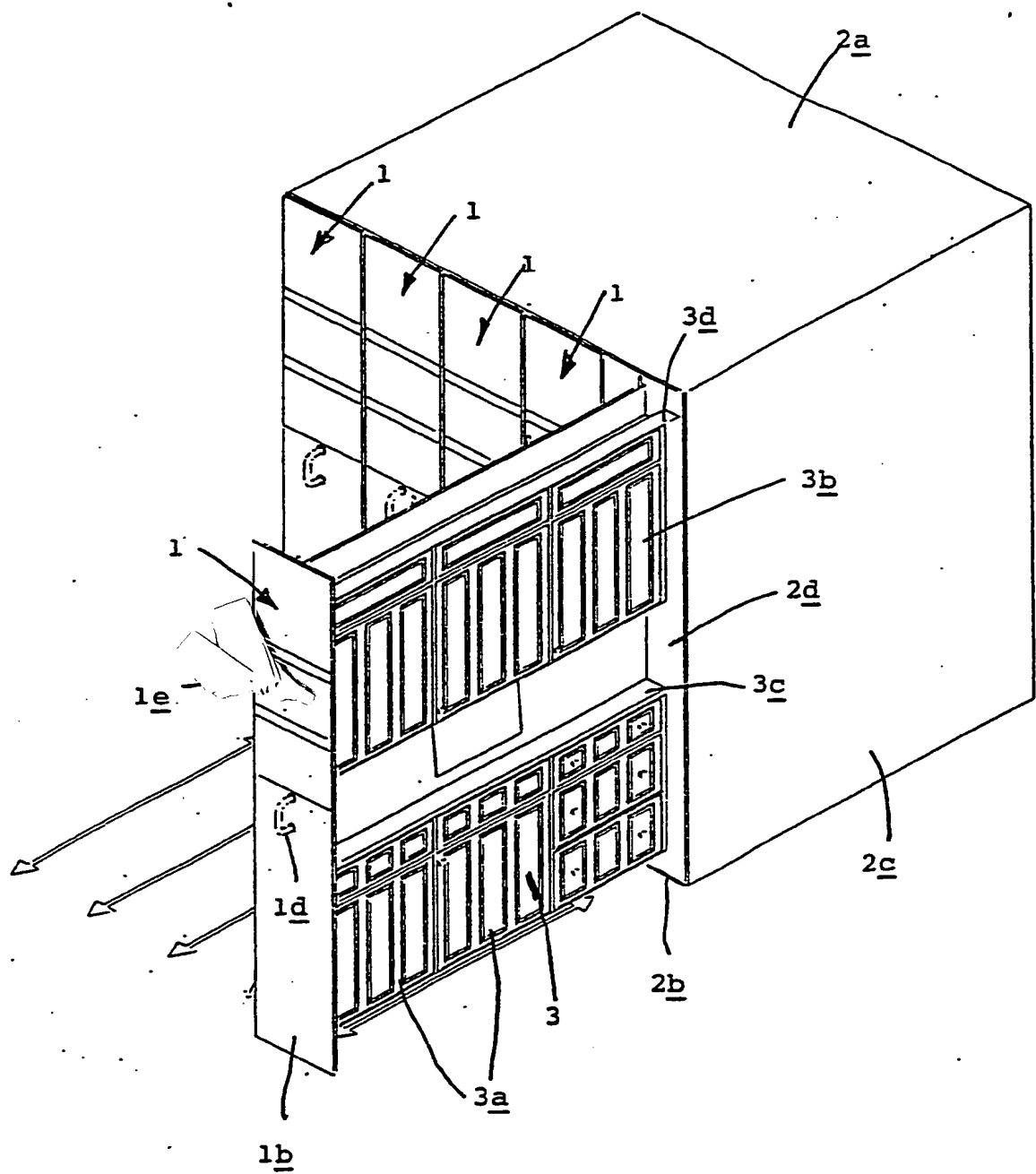


FIGURE 2.

01 DISPLAY SYSTEM

This invention relates to a display system for kitchen and bedroom furniture.

05 The invention has particular application to a display system for kitchen and bedroom furniture of the type comprising modular units of predetermined sizes that can be selected and arranged according to the available space to provide an integrated kitchen or bedroom design.

10 The known modular units for both kitchen and bedroom furniture comprise a carcass to which different combinations of doors and/or drawers are fitted. Usually, several ranges of units are provided having the same combinations but
15 different styles and/or finishes for the doors and/or drawer fronts.

To display the different ranges, it is usual for show kitchens or bedrooms to be assembled in the showroom from the modular units. In this way,
20 the overall effect of the style and/or surface finish in a typical lay-out for each range is presented to the customer.

The disadvantage of such fixed displays is that they are wasteful of floor space owing to the
25 size of the individual units and the need to provide sufficient clearance space for customers to view each display.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a display system for kitchen and bedroom
30 furniture which overcomes the afore-mentioned disadvantage of fixed displays and enables several ranges of furniture to be displayed in a compact arrangement that makes economical use of available floor space.

01 According to the present invention we provide
a display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture
comprising a plurality of bearer units adapted for
mounting ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture
05 with each bearer unit being supported for
horizontal sliding movement between a retracted
position ("the stored position") and an extended
position ("the viewing position") such that each
bearer unit is selectively movable to the extended
10 position for showing the associated range of
furniture.

The invented display system enables several
ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture to be
mounted for selective viewing by the customer in a
15 compact arrangement which makes better use of the
available floor space than the conventional fixed
displays.

Preferably, each bearer unit comprises a
rectangular mount panel supported for the
20 horizontal sliding movement and an end panel
secured to one side edge with the end panel being
provided with a hand grip accessible to the user
for moving the bearer unit between the retracted
and extended positions.

25 Advantageously, each end panel extends to
either side of the associated mount panel to
define therewith respective display bays on each
side of the panel. In this way, ranges of
furniture can be mounted for display on each side
30 of the mount panel.

Each bearer unit may be suspended at the top
for sliding movement with optional guide means
being provided at the bottom to locate the bearer

01 unit during sliding movement. Alternatively, each
unit may be supported at the bottom for sliding
movement with the optional guide means being
provided at the top.

05 Conveniently, the bearer units are received
in a housing in the retracted position. Such
housing may be provided in part by the wall(s),
floor and ceiling of the showroom, for example an
alcove or recess, and/or by fixed side, back, top
10 and bottom panels as appropriate.

In a preferred arrangement, the housing is
rectangular with the bearer units arranged side by
side with the mount panels in spaced apart
parallel relationship and the end panels closing
15 an opening at one end of the housing in the
retracted position.

Advantageously, each bearer unit incorporates
lighting unit(s) adapted for connection to a power
source for illuminating the associated range(s) of
20 furniture.

Other features and advantages of the invented
display system will be apparent from the following
detailed description of an exemplary embodiment
with reference to the accompanying drawings
25 wherein:-

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a display
system according to the present invention showing
one of the bearer units in the extended position
and from one side; and

30 FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of the system
similar to Figure 1 but showing the extended
bearer unit from the other side.

01 The display system for kitchen furniture
shown in the accompanying drawings comprises five
bearer units 1 mounted for horizontal sliding
movement between a retracted position for storage
05 in a rectangular housing 2 ("the stored position")
and an extended position for viewing any selected
range of kitchen furniture ("the viewing
position").

 The housing 2 comprises top and bottom
10 walls 2a, 2b extending between opposed side
walls 2c defining an opening 2d at one end, and a
back wall (not shown) extending between the side
walls 2c at the other end.

 The top and bottom walls 2a, 2b may be
15 provided by the ceiling and floor of a showroom
with the side walls 2c and back wall being
provided by the walls of an existing recess or
alcove.

 Alternatively, one or more of the side
20 walls 2c and back wall may be provided by a
respective fixed panel extending between the
ceiling and floor.

 In a preferred arrangement, the housing 2 is
arranged to provide clearance on either side of
25 the opening 2d for viewing of both sides of each
bearer unit 1.

 The bearer units 1 are of similar
construction each comprising an upright
rectangular mount panel 1a suspended along the top
30 edge from a support track (not shown) for sliding
movement by any suitable means (not shown).

 The bearer units 1 are arranged side by side
with the mount panels 1a in spaced apart parallel

01 relationship, and each panel 1a is guided along
the bottom edge for such sliding movement by any
suitable means (not shown) to maintain the
panel 1a upright and prevent the panel 1a twisting
05 or swinging about the support track.

Secured to the front or leading side edge of
each panel 1a is a respective upright rectangular
end panel 1b arranged to extend on either side of
the associated mount panel 1a to define therewith
10 respective recessed display bays 1c. In the
retracted position, the end panels 1b are aligned
and close the opening 2d so as to conceal the
mount panels 1a within the housing. 2.

Mounted on the front or outer face of each
15 end panel 1b is a respective hand grip 1d
accessible to the user by means of which the
associated bearer unit 1 may be manually moved
between the retracted or stored position and the
extended or viewing position.

20 Each end panel 1b is also provided on the
front or outer face with means 1e for attaching
labels (not shown) to identify the kitchen ranges
for use by the customer in selecting the required
bearer unit 1 to be extended to the viewing
25 position.

Mounted on each side of each mount panel 1a
is a respective show kitchen 3 consisting of an
array of modular base units 3a and an array of
modular wall units 3b. Typically, the door and
30 drawer fronts of the units 3a, 3b will all be to
the same style for a given range of units but may
have different surface finishes where there is a
choice of the surface finish.

01 Each unit 3a, 3b is of the same height and
width as the corresponding full-size unit but is
of reduced depth so as to be confined within the
associated display bay 1c. By using normal sizes
05 for the height and width of the units 3a, 3b and
reducing only the depth, a three dimensional
display is obtained which simulates the effect of
a conventional fixed display assembled from full-
size units.

10 Each show kitchen 3 is completed by a narrow
strip of worktop 3c extending across the top of
the base units 3a and by a cornice 3d extending
along the top edge of the wall units 3b.

15 A pelmet (not shown) may also be provided
along the bottom edge of the wall units 3b as
well as tiles or other suitable wall covering (not
shown) between the base units 3a and the wall
units 3b.

20 Additionally, each bearer unit 1 may
incorporate lighting unit(s) (not shown) adapted
for connection to a suitable power source to
illuminate the associated show kitchens 3.

25 As will now be appreciated, the present
invention provides a compact display system
permitting selective viewing of several different
ranges of furniture in a floor area considerably
less than that required for a conventional fixed
display of the same ranges of furniture.

30 As a result, the number of ranges that can be
displayed may be increased for a given floor space
or the saving in floor space may be utilised to
display other products.

01 By way of example only and without limiting
the scope of the invention as described herein, in
the exemplary embodiment above-described, each end
panel 1b is 400mm wide providing display
05 bays 1c approximately 200mm deep on either side of
the associated mount panel 1a and the base
units 3a and wall units 3b are 75mm and 75mm deep
respectively as compared with the corresponding
full size units which are 500mm and 300mm deep
10 respectively.

It will be understood that the invention is
not limited to the embodiment above-described, for
example the number of bearer units may be selected
as desired.

15 Each mount panel may be used to mount
furniture on one side only, for example where
access to both sides of the bearer units is
restricted.

Each mount panel may be arranged to mount and
20 display more than one range of furniture on the or
each side.

The housing may be arranged with openings at
both ends and the bearer units arranged for
sliding movement to the extended position from
25 either end. In this way, separate bearer units
may be extended from either end for viewing of
different ranges at the same time.

The housing may be of any shape or size, for
example circular or part circular with the bearer
30 units arranged to extend radially. Two or more
 housings with the associated bearer units may be
arranged side by side, back to back or any other
positions as desired.

01 Finally, although the invention has been
described with reference to the mounting and
display of ranges of kitchen furniture, it is to
be understood that the invention applies equally
05 to the mounting and display of different ranges of
modular units of bedroom furniture having door
and/or drawer fronts of a particular style and/or
finish.

01 Claims:

1. A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture comprising a plurality of bearer units adapted for mounting ranges of kitchen or bedroom furniture with
05 each bearer unit being supported for horizontal sliding movement between a retracted position ("the stored position") and an extended position ("the viewing position") such that each bearer unit is selectively movable to the extended position for showing the
10 associated range of furniture.
2. A display system according to Claim 1 wherein each bearer unit comprises a rectangular mount panel supported for the horizontal sliding movement and an end panel secured to one side edge with the end panel
15 being provided with a hand grip accessible to the user for moving the bearer unit between the retracted and extended positions.
3. A display system according to Claim 2 wherein each end panel is provided with means for displaying a
20 label.
4. A display system according to Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein each end panel extends to either side of the associated mount panel to define therewith respective display bays on each side of the panel.
- 25 5. A display system according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein each bearer unit is suspended at the top for sliding movement with optional guide means being provided at the bottom to locate the bearer unit during sliding movement.
- 30 6. A display system according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein each bearer unit is supported at the bottom for sliding movement with optional guide means being provided at the top.

- 01 7. A display system according to any one of the
preceding Claims wherein the bearer units are received
in a housing in the retracted position.
- 05 8. A display system according to Claim 7 wherein, in
use, the system is arranged in a showroom or like
display area and the housing is provided in part by the
wall(s), floor and ceiling of the room and/or by fixed
side, back, top and bottom panels as appropriate.
- 10 9. A display system according to Claim 7 or Claim 8
as dependent on Claim 2 wherein the housing is
rectangular with the bearer units arranged side by side
with the mount panels in spaced apart parallel
relationship and the end panels closing an opening at
one end of the housing in the retracted position.
- 15 10. A display system according to Claim 9 wherein the
bearer units can be extended from said one end only.
- 20 11. A display system according to Claim 9 wherein each
bearer unit has a respective end panel at each end and
the bearer units can be extended from each end of the
housing.
- 25 12. A display system according to any one of Claims 1
to 7 wherein the housing is circular or part circular
and the bearer units are arranged to extend radially.
13. A display system according to any one of the
preceding Claims wherein each bearer unit incorporates
lighting unit(s) adapted for connection to a power
source for illuminating the associated range(s) of
furniture.
- 30 14. A display system for kitchen or bedroom furniture
substantially as hereinbefore described with reference
to the accompanying drawings.

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